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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION

INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of Security Council resolution 626 (1988) of 20 December 1988, by which the Council decided to establish under its authority a United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM). By paragraph 5 of that resolution, the Council, *inter alia*, requested the Secretary-General to keep the Council fully informed of further developments. The present report contains an account of developments relating to UNAVEM during the last phase of its operations, which began on 1 October 1990 and was concluded on 31 May 1991. Information concerning the previous phase is set out in my report to the Council of 10 October 1990 (S/21860).

I. COMPOSITION, COMMAND AND DEPLOYMENT

2. The command of UNAVEM continues to be exercised by the Chief Military Observer, Brigadier-General Péricles Ferreira Gomes (Brazil).

3. As at 31 May 1991, the strength of UNAVEM was 61, as follows:

United Nations military observers

Algeria	6
Argentina	6
Brazil	7 ^{a/}
Congo	6
Czechoslovakia	6
India	6
Jordan	6
Norway	6
Spain	6
Yugoslavia	6
Total	<u>61</u>

^{a/} Including one medical doctor.

4. Eighteen international and 13 local civilian staff members were serving with UNAVEM at that time.

5. UNAVEM continued to have its headquarters at Luanda and military teams at the ports of Cabinda, Lobito and Luanda, as well as at Luanda airport. At each of these locations they maintained a 24-hour watch and recorded the movement of all Cuban military personnel and equipment into and out of Angola.

II. OPERATIONS

6. During the period under review the procedures worked out early in 1989, to which I referred in my report of 10 May 1989 (S/20625, para. 8), continued to work well and to enable UNAVEM to record accurately all movement of Cuban military personnel and equipment into and out of Angola.

7. The momentum of withdrawal increased noticeably in the months of April and May 1991. On 22 May, I was notified of the decision taken by the Governments of Angola and Cuba to complete the withdrawal more than one month before the planned schedule (see S/22644). Consequently, on 25 May, UNAVEM witnessed the ceremony to mark the completion of the withdrawal of a total of 50,000 Cuban troops and concomitant military equipment from Angola. The ceremony was attended by the President of Angola, the Vice-President of Cuba and many other distinguished personalities from both countries. The document certifying the completion of the withdrawal was signed, in the presence of the Chief Military Observer of UNAVEM, by the Defence Minister of Angola and the Cuban Force Commander.

8. The net departures of Cuban military personnel in the period between 1 October 1990 and 25 May 1991 totalled 14,165 persons. Total net departures recorded and verified by UNAVEM since the withdrawal of Cuban military personnel began on 10 January 1989 thus amount to exactly 50,000 persons (see the annex to the present report). It will be recalled that under the terms of the bilateral agreement signed between Angola and Cuba on 22 December 1988 (see S/20345, appendix) a total of 50,000 Cuban troops (or 100 per cent of the Cuban military force) were to have been withdrawn by 1 July 1991.

9. In addition to the withdrawal of military personnel, the withdrawal of tanks, armoured personnel carriers, towed and self-propelled artillery pieces, varied military vehicles, engineering equipment, helicopters, aircraft, a large quantity of munitions and other war-like stores belonging to the Cuban forces in Angola has been recorded in detail by UNAVEM.

10. During the period covered by the present report, UNAVEM received no reports of the presence or suspected presence of Cuban troops at any location south of the adjusted 13th parallel.

11. I am again pleased to report that both the Government of Angola and the Cuban military authorities in that country extended their full cooperation to UNAVEM. The Joint Commission (see S/20338, para. 9 (a)), whose mandate was to

coordinate United Nations verification of the redeployment and withdrawal of Cuban troops and to resolve any problems that might arise, continued to meet during the phase under review at regular intervals and made an important contribution to the successful implementation of the UNAVEM mandate.

12. No complaint or report regarding the alleged presence of Cuban troops in Angola has been received since UNAVEM verified the completion of Cuban troop withdrawal on 25 May 1991.

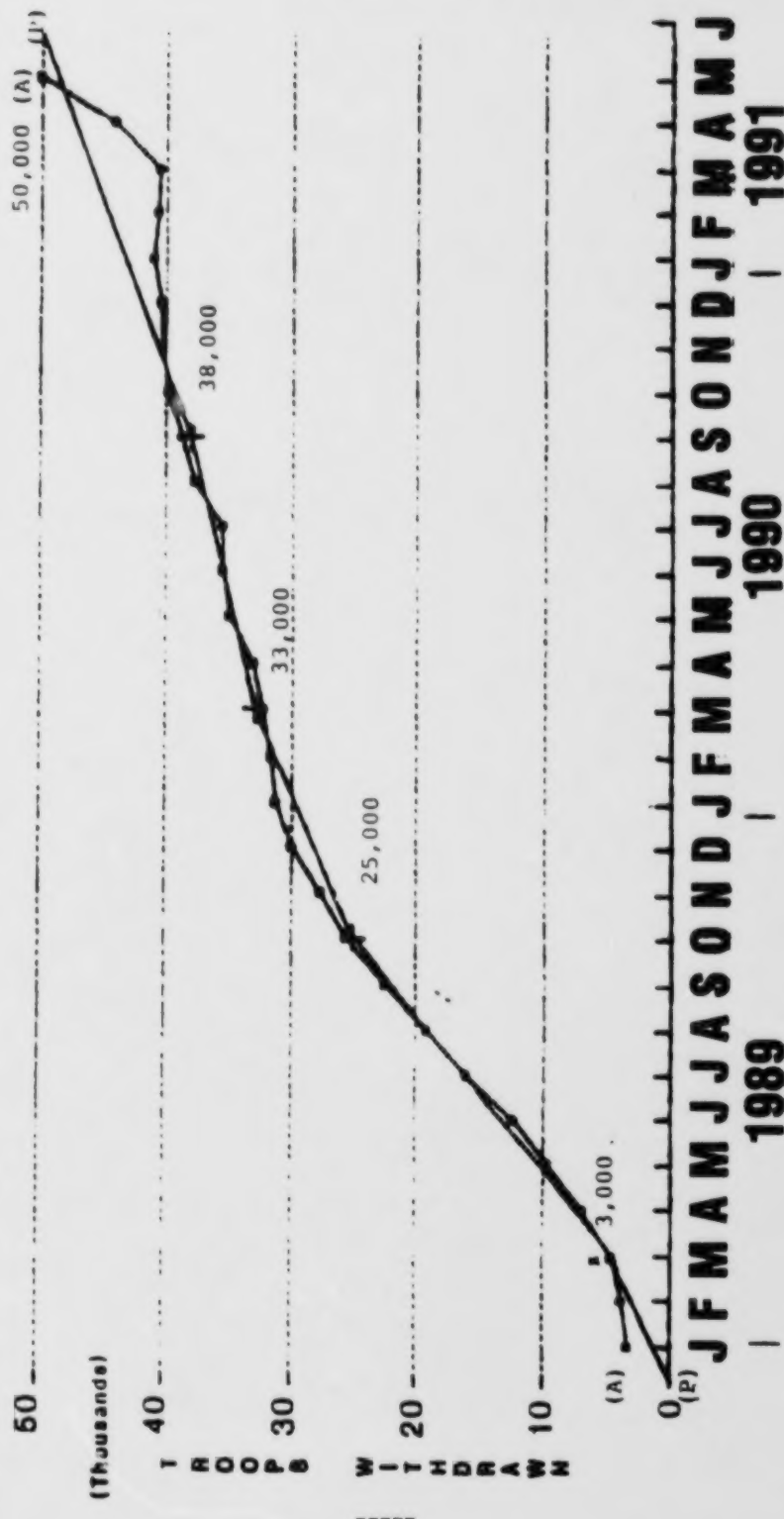
III. CONCLUDING REMARKS

13. As reported above, UNAVEM has carried out, fully and effectively, the mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council in its resolution 626 (1988). I would like to express gratitude to the Governments of both Angola and Cuba for their decision to complete the withdrawal five weeks ahead of schedule, which has enabled UNAVEM to concentrate all its resources on the new tasks assigned to the Mission by Security Council resolution 696 (1991) of 30 May 1991.

14. The success of UNAVEM again demonstrates what can be achieved by a United Nations peace-keeping operation when it receives the full cooperation of the parties concerned. Credit for this success is also due to the Governments that have contributed military observers to UNAVEM and to the Chief Military Observer, Brigadier-General Péricles Ferreira Gomes, and the military and civilian staff under his command for the energy and skill with which they have brought about this satisfactory outcome. Their professionalism and dedication to duty will undoubtedly help UNAVEM to fulfil the new and complex responsibilities that lie ahead.

Annex

Number of troops withdrawn as at 31 May 1991



--- Actual withdrawal (A) + Projected withdrawal (P)